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Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification

11-3868

MAY 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Secretary of Defense

SUBJECT: General Kiraly

1. As you know, we worked out an arrangement with General Erskine's office for Major General Bela Kiraly, former Military Commander of Budapest during the Hungarian Revolution of 1956, to meet with Defense officials at the Pentagon and at Fort Bragg.

2. The purposes of this were twofold: To indicate to the Soviets that our military were carefully considering the exploitation of Hungarian guerrilla potential in the event of a showdown on Berlin; and to actually make available to your unconventional warfare people any ideas Kiraly has.

3. On the latter count at least this seems to have been successful. We assume that Soviet intelligence is well aware of Kiraly's visit, and we hope that this will be taken seriously by Moscow. (We believe that Moscow takes very seriously indeed any U.S. interest in Satellite affairs of this sort.)

4. We should like to express our thanks for the excellent work and cooperation of General Erskine, General Gee of Special Warfare, Colonel Jones of Fort Bragg, Colonel Lansdale and [] of OSO in this joint effort.

5. We hope we may be able to find other ways in making full use of General Kiraly's and perhaps others' talents in this general area.

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AUTH. HR 70-2
DATE 20/2/81

SIGNED

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C. P. CABELL
General, USAF
Deputy Director

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY FILE

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Signature Recommended:

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[Redacted Signature]

DDP/

Deputy Director
(Plans)

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DDP/[Redacted]

4 May 1959

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Rec'd 5/7. *

DD/P 4-5668

5 May 1959

Executive Registry

11-3868-1

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : General Kiraly

A few days ago I received a memorandum, copy attached, from Colonel Ed Lansdale summarizing the meetings arranged between Major General Bela Kiraly of Hungary and Defense officials. It appeared that a letter of appreciation might well be in order, and I am transmitting herewith a proposed letter for your signature, drafted by [redacted] We received very good cooperation on this project and I recommend your signature.

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[redacted]

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RICHARD M. BISSELL, JR.
Deputy Director
(Plans)

Attachments:

Memo for DD/P from Col. Lansdale
Proposed memo for Secy of Defense
from DDCI

cc: [redacted]

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11-3868

24 April 1959

By hand

MEMORANDUM FOR DICK BISSELL

From: Colonel Lansdale

Subject: General Kiraly

DISPATCHED TO THE SECRETARY
OF THE ARMY
DATE 20/2/81

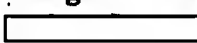


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Thought you would like to know that the bringing together of General Kiraly and Defense officials has been most successful. As a result of the Pentagon luncheon, both ISA and Army have warmly seconded our view that it would be useful to have him meet with some of our top officials for a discussion of unconventional warfare as he saw it in Hungary. I intend getting in touch with you later about this.

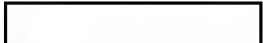
Kiraly then went to Ft. Bragg, where the visit was highly successful. He spoke to a group of top commanders and staff officers, a group of foreign students, and was given a star place in the seminar on unconventional warfare attended by officers from many commands and organizations. I believe this gave quite a lift to Kiraly's morale, to be riding in an assigned sedan bearing two stars of his rank and being among soldiers again. I know that he made a real hit with the Army; they want him to give a lecture at the Command and Staff College at Leavenworth.

I bring this to your attention mainly because you might have other foreign leaders such as Kiraly, from whom we can mutually benefit.

If you are considering a note of appreciation, I would suggest a letter from the DCI to the Secretary, including naming General Gee of Special Warfare and Colonel Jones of Ft. Bragg.  of OSO did some fine work in making the arrangements, and accompanied Kiraly to Bragg.

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I would like to add that  deserves some credit for having developed this particular idea and brought it to our attention for action.

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